

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 4)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, PARM, SALT US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PUBLIC TREATMENT OF SALT II

SUMMARY: SOVIET PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE SALT ISSUE VARIED OVER THE WEEK-END. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE THE PRAVDA "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN BY O. SKALKIN NOTED THE IMPENDING EXPIRATION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT (IA) AND BLAMED THE US FOR THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A NEW AGREEMENT SAYING THAT THE FAULT LAY WITH THE US QUEST FOR UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN WASHINGTON. THIS COLUMN FAILED, HOWEVER, TO MAKE ANY MENTION OF THE POST-PONEMENT OF THE VANCE-GROMYKO TALKS IN VIENNA. IN CONTRAST, ON 5 SEP, FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO SOUNDED A MORE POSITIVE NOTE IN A SPEECH AT A BREAKFAST FOR UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM IN MOSCOW. GROMYKO STRESSED THE IMPORTANT OF A RAPID CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT TO THE SOVIETS AND SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS "FIRMLY CONVINCED" THAT SUCCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS

END SUMMARY

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1. IN THE 4 SEPT ISSUE OF PRAVDA, O. SKALKIN DEVOTED A LENGTHY SECTION OF THE "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN TO SOVIET DISARMAMENT POLICY. AFTER REVIEWING RECENT SOVIET ACTIVITIES AT THE CCD IN GENEVA (CTB, MDW, CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN), HE TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF SALT. SKALKIN SPOKE OF GROWING US CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPENDING EXPIRATION OF THE IA, AND ASSERTED

THAT "AS BEFORE, THE MATTER RESTS WITH THE US." HE BLAMED THE US FOR CREATING OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT IN ITS ATTEMPT TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DUE TO THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WHICH IS WHIPPING UP THE ARMS RACE.

2. SKALKIN THEN ACCUSED THE US OF NOT MATCHING ITS DECLARATIONS ABOUT GOOD INTENTIONS WITH APPROPRIATE DEEDS. THE "REAL POLICY" OF THE US, HE INDICATED, IS REFLECTED IN VARIOUS ACTIONS INCLUDING: THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR SEVERAL NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROGRAMS-FB-111 MODIFICATION, MX, CRUISE MISSILE, SPACE WEAPONS (PRESUMABLY DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEM); NEW US WEAPONS DELIVERIES TO NATO INCLUDING PLANS TO DEPLOY THE NEUTRON BOMB; THE LATEST NATO MANEUVERS INCLUDING THIS FALL'S REFORGER SERIES; AND RECENT WESTERN MOVES TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE'S NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANKS, INCLUDING A RECENT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE WEST GERMAN NAVY WILL SOON BE MAKING A PORT CALL IN FINLAND.

3. FOR MIN GROMYKO'S SPEECH AT A 5 SEP BREAKFAST IN HONOR OF UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM HAD A DIFFERENT TONE. HIS REMARKS, CARRIED IN THE 6 SEP PRAVDA, EMPHASIZED SOVIET AWARENESS OF THE KEY ROLE OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY AND INDICATED THAT THEY REQUIRE "THE MOST RAPID SOLUTION." AFTER NOTING THAT THINGS ARE NOT SOLELY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIETS, GROMYKO ASSERTED, "HOWEVER, WE ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT SUCCESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS IS FULLY ACHIEVABLE ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY FOR BOTH SIDES."

4. COMMENT: GROMYKO'S REMARKS APPEAR DESIGNED TO CONVEY CONTINUED SOVIET INTEREST IN RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES DEADLOCKING THE SALT II NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE THE LAST WEEK'S POSTPONEMENT OF THE VANCE-GROMYKO DISCUSSIONS IN VIENNA. IN CONTRAST, THE SKALKIN COLUMN IN PRAVDA REPRESENTS THE LATEST SUMMARY OF WESTERN ACTIONS WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE CHOSE TO DRAMATIZE AS ACCELERATIONS OF THE ARMS RACE. THE BILL OF PARTICULARS CONTINUES TO LIST CRUISE MISSILES AND THE NEUTRON BOMB AND IS NOW BEING EXPANDED TO INCLUDE A REPORTED FB-111 MODIFICATION PROGRAM AND THE NEW MIRVED MX ICBM. (A TASS WASHINGTON ITEM IN RED STAR ON 6 SEP NOTED OTHER RECENT ARMS PROPOSALS IN THE US INCLUDING USE OF THE C-5 OR 747 AIRCRAFT AS CRUISE MISSILE CARRIERS AND THE "D-5" MISSILE). THE SOVIETS HAVE STEADILY CRITICIZED NEW US WEAPONS PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, INFORMATION MEDIA, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NEGOTIATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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